

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Prior to entry of this preliminary amendment, claims 1-15 were pending in the above-referenced application. Claims 1-15 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 16-39, which are newly added, are fully supported by the disclosure concurrently filed herewith. No new matter has been added. Section headings have been added to the specification in compliance with the guidelines set forth under 37 C.F.R. §1.77.

The amendments to the claims have not been made for purposes of patentability, do not narrow the claims, and do not add any new matter to the application.

CONCLUSION

Upon entry of this Preliminary Amendment, claims 16-39 are pending in the application. Applicant submits that the claims are now in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

No fee is due in connection with this Communication. However, if a fee is required, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 23-1703.

Dated: 6/25/04

Respectfully submitted,



Scott T. Weingaertner
Reg. No. 37,756
Attorney for Applicant

Customer No. 007470
White & Case LLP
Direct Line: (212) 819-8404